

**United States
District Court**

Report of Chief Judge Norma Holloway Johnson

In the last two years, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia has seen many notable changes. The Honorable John Garrett Penn ended his tenure as Chief Judge on July 21, 1997, after five and one-half years of service. Judge Penn brought to the position an extraordinary combination of scholarship and decency. Our court was enriched by his leadership. We deeply appreciate his dedication and hard work and are pleased that Judge Penn continues to serve.

The District Court welcomed two new judges in 1997. The Honorable Colleen Kollar-Kotelly and the Honorable Henry H. Kennedy, Jr. were sworn in as United States District Judges on May 12 and October 20, 1997, respectively. Judge Kollar-Kotelly had served as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court for the District of Columbia since 1984, and Judge Kennedy had served as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court for the District of Columbia since 1979.

Magistrate Judge Patrick J. Attridge, who first took office in 1983 and was reappointed to a second eight-year term in 1991, retired on June 2, 1997, but chose to serve under senior status, as a Recalled Magistrate Judge, for one year. Magistrate Judge Deborah A. Robinson, who has served as a Magistrate Judge since July 1988, was reappointed to a second eight-year term in July 1996. In addition to Magistrate Judges Attridge and Robinson, the court benefits from the support and assistance of Magistrate Judge Alan Kay who has served since September 1991.

As required by the Judicial Conference of the United States, the District Court appointed a Merit Selection Panel to fill the vacancy created by Magistrate Judge Attridge's decision to take senior status. The Panel was chaired by Wendell Webster, Esquire, and included Shawn Moore, Esquire, Hiram E. Puig-Lugo, Esquire, Patrick M. Raher, Esquire, Mrs. Jeanette Hackney, and Mr. L. Marvin Hill. The Panel submitted a list of five names for consideration, and the Executive Committee interviewed each candidate and submitted recommendations to the Executive Session. On August 18, 1997, John M. Facciola was appointed as our newest Magistrate Judge. Prior to this appointment, he had served since 1982 as an Assistant United States Attorney.

On March 19, 1997, the District Court experienced a great loss in the death of the Honorable Charles R. Richey. Judge Richey began his service to this Court on May 19, 1971, and for over twenty-five years, graced this Court with his brilliance, dignity, ingenuity, and friendship. He is greatly missed.

On March 11, 1997, the United States Judicial Conference approved a Model Employment Resolution Plan and directed each court to adopt and implement a plan based on the model. The Plan was submitted to the Circuit Judicial Council on December 23, 1997. The Council recognized several discrepancies between the Plan as approved and the Circuit's policy on sexual harassment. The District Court will address the differences in the upcoming year prior to implementation of the Plan on January 1, 1999.

The jurisdiction of the District Court has been expanded in two respects. First, the Special Railroad Court, established under the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973, was abolished with the passage of the Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1996, effective January 17, 1997. That court's original and exclusive jurisdiction was transferred to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Second, on April 24, 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, which gives the District Court jurisdiction over applications for removal of alien terrorists brought by the Attorney General. The Alien Terrorist Removal Court is modeled after the special court created by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The Executive Session, in November 1996, approved the use of this Court's facilities by the Alien Terrorist Removal Court and designated Nancy Mayer-Whittington as Clerk of said Court.

The National Capital Area Judicial Conference on Courts and Genetic Testing was held on May 14, 1997, at the Airlie Conference Center in Airlie, Virginia. With the assistance of the Einstein Institute for Science, Health and the Courts, the Conference assessed the implications of progress in genetics for the adjudication of civil and criminal cases.

In July 1997, the Honorable Thomas F. Hogan held the first jury trial in the new electronic courtroom. The electronic equipment used therein provides an excellent example of the technological advances available to today's judicial system. When not in use for trials, Courtroom Nine is often utilized for tours and demonstrations by lawyers, legal organizations, and foreign visitors. Interest in the electronic courtroom from the media and the public has been very strong. In its first three months of operation, presentations were made to forty different groups. The electronic courtroom places the District Court in the forefront of innovation and modernization.

The District Court's Committee on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity, led by Judges Ricardo Urbina, Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, and James Robertson, held several sessions this past year that focused on discrimination and the process for filing grievances. Programs presented by the committee included discussions of the court's sexual harassment policy, viewing a videotape challenging societal prejudices, and a candid debate on a variety of discrimination issues.

The 1997 Director's Award for Outstanding Leadership, presented annually by Leonidas Ralph Mecham, Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, was bestowed upon our Chief United States Probation Officer, Richard A. Houck, Jr. The Probation Office has made great progress under his leadership. He streamlined the varied operations of the Probation Office through the use of technology and has implemented many changes that have increased productivity. In his capacity as a court manager, he also has contributed to numerous court committees.

The court bid farewell to LeeAnn Flynn Hall after her sixteen years of service as Administrative Assistant to the Chief Judge. She is currently serving the Trustee for Pre-Trial Services, Defense Services, Parole, Adult Probation and Offender Services under the National Capital Revitalization Act of 1997 in the District of Columbia.

Eric Holder, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, left his post this past year to become Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice. While the search for a new U.S. Attorney was conducted, Mary Lou Leary, Esquire, was sworn in as the Acting United States Attorney in July 1997, until Wilma Lewis, Esquire, then the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of the Interior, was appointed the new United States Attorney for the District of Columbia by President Clinton.

Since our last biennial report, the number of civil case filings increased by 20 percent in 1996 and 9 percent in 1997. Criminal case filings increased by 43 percent in 1996 and 3 percent in 1997. For the United

States Bankruptcy Court, case filings increased by 31 percent in 1996 and 29 percent in 1997. This is slightly higher than the national statistics (26 percent in 1996, 23 percent in 1997). During 1996 and 1997, 276 adversary cases were terminated in the bankruptcy court.

The District Court continues to make outstanding progress in improving the administration of justice and services to the nation and the District of Columbia. The court is fortunate to have talented and dedicated individuals in its judiciary, and outstanding court managers, administrators, and support staff. All have played an integral role in maintaining the fine reputation and work product of this Court.

This past year I was honored to become the Chief Judge of this historic and outstanding Court. Although I bring to the office many years of experience and a great enthusiasm, the past ten months have been an extraordinary learning experience. Led by thirteen active and nine senior judges, the productivity of the court remains high. As Chief Judge, I embrace the great challenge of preparing our court for the new millennium. We must all look ahead to meeting challenges — familiar and unforeseen.

Norma Holloway Johnson
Chief Judge
U.S. District Court

United States District Court for the District of Columbia

NORMA HOLLOWAY JOHNSON



Chief Judge Johnson was appointed to the United States District Court in May 1980 and became Chief Judge on July 22, 1997. She received a J.D. in 1962 from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.S. in 1955 from the University of the District of Columbia. Chief Judge Johnson served as a trial attorney in the Civil Division, U.S. Department of Justice, from 1963 to 1967, and as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia from 1967 to 1970. In October 1970, she was appointed Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, where she served until her appointment to the federal bench.

JOHN GARRETT PENN



Judge Penn was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Columbia in March 1979 and served as Chief Judge from March 1992 until July 1997. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts with an A.B. in 1954 and received an LL.B. from the Boston University School of Law in 1957. He attended the Woodrow Wilson School of International & Public Affairs at Princeton University from 1967 to 1968, where he was a National Institute of Public Affairs Fellow, and later attended the National Judicial College, University of Nevada. He served in the U.S. Army, Judge Advocate General's Corps from 1958 to 1961. Judge Penn served as a Trial Attorney, Reviewer, and Assistant Chief of the General Litigation Section, Tax Division, Department of Justice, from 1961 to 1970, and as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia from 1970 to 1979.

NOTE: Judge Penn took senior status
effective March 31, 1998

THOMAS PENFIELD JACKSON



Judge Jackson was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Columbia in June 1982. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1958 and Harvard Law School in 1964. Between college and law school, he served as an officer in the U.S. Navy. Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Jackson practiced law for eighteen years, primarily as a civil litigator. At the time of his appointment to the court, Judge Jackson was serving as President of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia.

THOMAS F. HOGAN



Judge Hogan was appointed to the United States District Court in August 1982. He graduated from Georgetown University, receiving an A.B. (classical) in 1960. He attended George Washington University's masters program in American and English literature from 1960 to 1962, and he graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1966, where he was the St. Thomas More Fellow. Following law school, Judge Hogan clerked for Judge William B. Jones of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia from 1966 to 1967. He served as counsel to the National Commission for the Reform of Federal Criminal Laws from 1967 to 1968, and was engaged in private practice from 1968 to 1982. He has been an adjunct professor of law at the Georgetown University Law Center and a Master of the Prettyman-Leventhal Inn of Court. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the District Court, chair of the Rules Committee, Magistrate Judge Liaison Judge and serves on the Board of the Federal Judicial Center.

STANLEY SPORKIN



Judge Sporkin was sworn in as United States District Court Judge for the District of Columbia in February 1986. He received a B.A. in 1953 from Pennsylvania State University and graduated from Yale Law School in 1957. He is also a Certified Public Accountant. Judge Sporkin clerked for three years for a federal District Judge in Delaware and then entered private practice. In 1961, he joined the Securities and Exchange Commission and practiced with the Commission for twenty years, serving as Chief of the Enforcement Division for seven years. From 1981 to 1986, he served as General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

ROYCE C. LAMBERTH



Judge Lamberth received his appointment to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in November 1987. He was appointed Presiding Judge of the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court in May 1995 by Chief Justice Rehnquist. Judge Lamberth graduated from the University of Texas and from the University of Texas School of Law, receiving an LL.B. in 1967. He served as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the United States Army from 1968 to 1974, including one year in Vietnam. After that, he became an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. In 1978, Judge Lamberth became Chief of the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office, a position he held until his appointment to the federal bench.

GLADYS KESSLER



Judge Kessler was appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in July 1994. She received a B.A. from Cornell University and an LL.B. from Harvard Law School. Following graduation, Judge Kessler was employed by the National Labor Relations Board and served as Legislative Assistant to a U.S. Senator and a U.S. Congressman. Thereafter, she worked for the New York City Board of Education and then returned to Washington, D.C. to open a public interest law firm. In June 1977, she was appointed Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. From 1981 to 1985, Judge Kessler served as Presiding Judge of the Family Division, and was a major architect of one of the nation's first Multi-Door Courthouses. She served as President of the National Association of Women Judges from 1983 to 1984, and is now on the Executive Committee of the ABA's Conference of Federal Trial Judges.

PAUL L. FRIEDMAN



Judge Friedman was appointed United States District Judge in August 1994. He graduated from Cornell University in 1965 and received a J.D. from the School of Law of the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1968. Following law school, Judge Friedman clerked for Judge Aubrey E. Robinson, Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and for Judge Roger Robb of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1970 to 1974, and as an Assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States from 1974 to 1976. Judge Friedman practiced law as an associate and partner with White & Case from 1976 until 1994. He served as President of the District of Columbia Bar from 1986 to 1987, and as Associate Independent Counsel for the Iran-Contra Investigation from 1987 to 1988.

RICARDO M. URBINA



Judge Urbina was appointed to the United States District Court in July 1994. He received a B.A. in 1967 from Georgetown University and graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1970. He served as staff attorney for the D.C. Public Defender Service from 1970 to 1972 and then entered private practice. From 1974 to 1981 he taught at Howard University Law School and directed the University's Criminal Justice Program. He was appointed Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in April 1981, and served as Presiding Judge of the Court's Family Division from 1985 to 1988.

EMMET G. SULLIVAN



Judge Sullivan was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Columbia in July 1994. He received a B.A. in 1968 from Howard University and a J.D. in 1971 from the Howard University School of Law. Following law school, Judge Sullivan was a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow from 1971 to 1972. Thereafter, he clerked for Judge James A. Washington, Jr., of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. From 1973 to 1984, Judge Sullivan served as an associate and partner at the firm of Houston & Gardner, and its successor, Houston, Sullivan & Gardner. He was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in October 1984 and served in every division of that court, including positions as Deputy and Presiding Judge of the Probate and Tax Divisions. In November 1991, he was appointed to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals where he served until his appointment to the federal bench.

JAMES ROBERTSON



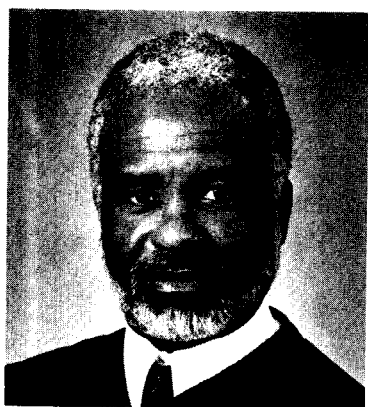
Judge Robertson was appointed United States District Judge in December 1994. He graduated from Princeton University in 1959 and received an LL.B. from George Washington University Law School in 1965 after serving in the U.S. Navy. From 1965 to 1969, he was in private practice with the law firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering. From 1969 to 1972, Judge Robertson served with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, as chief counsel of the Committee's litigation offices in Jackson, Mississippi, and as director in Washington, D.C. Judge Robertson then returned to private practice with Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, where he practiced until his appointment to the federal bench. While in private practice, he served as president of the District of Columbia Bar, co-chair of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and president of Southern Africa Legal Services and Legal Education Project, Inc.

COLLEEN KOLLAR-KOTELLY



Judge Kollar-Kotelly was appointed to the United States District Court in May 1997. She received a B.A. in 1965 from The Catholic University of America and a J.D. in 1968 from Columbus School of Law, The Catholic University of America. Following law school, she served as law clerk to Judge Catherine B. Kelly of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. From 1969 to 1972, Judge Kollar-Kotelly was an attorney in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and then served as the chief legal counsel to Saint Elizabeths Hospital until 1984. She was appointed Associate Judge of the D.C. Superior Court in October 1984 and served as Deputy Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division from 1995 until her appointment to the federal bench. Judge Kollar-Kotelly has been a Fellow of the American Bar Association, a founding member of the Thurgood Marshall Inn of Court, an adjunct professor at Georgetown University School of Medicine in a joint teaching program on mental health and the law, and chair of the Board of the Art Trust for Superior Court.

HENRY H. KENNEDY, JR.



Judge Kennedy was appointed to the U.S. District Court in September 1997. He graduated from Princeton University in 1970 and received a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1973. Following graduation, he worked for a short time for the law firm of Reavis, Pogue, Neal and Rose, then served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1973 to 1976. From 1976 to 1979 he served as a United States Magistrate for the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. In December 1979, he was appointed Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, where he served until his appointment to the federal bench.

Senior Judges

OLIVER GASCH



Judge Gasch was appointed United States District Judge in August 1965. He took senior status in November 1981. Judge Gasch received an A.B. from Princeton University and an LL.B. in 1932 from George Washington University Law School. During World War II, he served overseas in Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines as an officer in the United States Army from 1942 to 1946. Judge Gasch served as Assistant Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia from 1937 to 1953, Principal Assistant United States Attorney from 1953 to 1956, and United States Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1956 to 1961, and then entered private practice.

WILLIAM B. BRYANT



Judge Bryant was appointed to the United States District Court in August 1965, and took senior status in January 1982. He served as Chief Judge from March 1977 to September 1981. He graduated from Howard University, receiving an A.B. in 1932, and from Howard University Law School, receiving an LL.B. in 1936. Judge Bryant served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1947. He was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1951 to 1954. From 1954 until his appointment to the bench, Judge Bryant was engaged in private practice.

AUBREY E. ROBINSON, JR.



Judge Robinson was appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in November 1966. He served as Chief Judge of the court from September 1982 until March 1992. Judge Robinson graduated from Cornell University, receiving a B.A. in 1943 and an LL.B. in 1947 from Cornell Law School. During World War II, he served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1946. From 1948 until 1965, Judge Robinson was engaged in the private practice of law. In 1965, he was appointed Associate Judge of the Juvenile Court for the District of Columbia, where he served until his appointment to the District Court.

JUNE L. GREEN



Judge Green was appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in June 1968 and took senior status in January 1984. She graduated from Washington College of Law, American University, receiving a J.D. in 1941. She was engaged in the private practice of law in Maryland and the District of Columbia for twenty-five years prior to her appointment to the bench.

THOMAS A. FLANNERY



Judge Flannery was appointed United States District Judge in December 1971. He received an LL.B. from Columbus University Law School, now part of The Catholic University of America, in 1940. Judge Flannery served in the U.S. Air Force as a combat intelligence officer from 1942 to 1945. He was in private practice and served in the Department of Justice from 1945 to 1950. He was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1950 until 1961. Judge Flannery was a partner in the law firm of Hamilton & Hamilton from 1961 to 1969, when he was named U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, a position he held until his appointment to the court.

LOUIS F. OBERDORFER



Judge Oberdorfer was appointed to the United States District Court in October 1977. He graduated from Dartmouth College and received an LL.B. from Yale Law School in 1946 after his military service. Judge Oberdorfer was law clerk to Justice Hugo L. Black during the 1946 term of the U.S. Supreme Court. From 1947 until 1962, he was in private practice and became Assistant Attorney General, Tax Division, Department of Justice, in 1961. He returned to private practice in 1965. When appointed to the bench, Judge Oberdorfer was a partner at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering. He served as Co-Chairman of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a member of the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Chief Executive Officer of the Legal Services Corporation, and President of the D.C. Bar.

HAROLD H. GREENE



Judge Greene was appointed to the United States District Court in May 1978 and took senior status in August 1995. He graduated from George Washington University Law School in 1952. Judge Greene served as an Assistant United States Attorney from 1952 to 1957, and he was Chief of the Appeals and Research Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice from 1957 to 1965. He was appointed to serve as Associate Judge of the D.C. Court of General Sessions, later the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, from 1965 to 1966. He served as Chief Judge of the Superior Court from 1966 to 1978.

JOYCE HENS GREEN



Judge Green was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Columbia in May 1979. She was a member of the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court from May 1988 until her seven-year term expired in May 1995, and served as its Presiding Judge from May 1990 until the expiration of her term. Judge Green graduated from the University of Maryland, receiving a B.A. in 1949, and the George Washington University Law School, receiving a J.D. in 1951. Judge Green practiced law in the District of Columbia and Virginia until she was appointed Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1968, where she served until her appointment to the federal bench in 1979. She is a member of the U.S. Judicial Conference's Judicial Branch Committee and Chair of the National Conference of Federal Trial Judges. Judge Green took senior status in July 1995.

STANLEY S. HARRIS



Judge Harris was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Columbia in November 1983 and took senior status in February 1996. He attended the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1945 and graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.S. in 1951 and an LL.B. in 1953. He served in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1947. Judge Harris served as an associate and partner at Hogan & Hartson from 1953 to 1970. He was appointed to the D.C. Superior Court in 1971 and served until 1972 when he was appointed to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Judge Harris left the Court in 1982 to become United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, where he served until his appointment to the United States District Court in 1983.

Magistrate Judges

DEBORAH A. ROBINSON



Magistrate Judge Robinson was sworn in as United States Magistrate on July 18, 1988. She is a graduate of Morgan State University and Emory University School of Law. Magistrate Judge Robinson clerked for Chief Judge H. Carl Moultrie I of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia from 1978 to 1979. Following her clerkship, she joined the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, where she served for eight years prior to her appointment.

ALAN KAY



Magistrate Judge Kay was appointed a United States Magistrate Judge in September 1991. He is a graduate of George Washington University, receiving a B.A. in 1957 and a J.D. from its National Law Center in 1959. Magistrate Judge Kay clerked for U.S. District Court Judges Alexander Holtzoff and William B. Jones. He was an attorney with the Public Defender Service and served in the U.S. Attorney's Office. From 1967 until his appointment, he was in private practice in the District of Columbia.

JOHN M. FACCIOLA



Magistrate Judge Facciola was appointed a United States Magistrate Judge in August 1997. He received an A.B. in 1966 from the College of the Holy Cross and a J.D. in 1969 from the Georgetown University Law Center. Following law school, Magistrate Judge Facciola served as an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan from 1969 to 1973, and was in private practice in the District of Columbia from 1974 to 1982. He joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in 1982 and served as Chief of the Special Proceedings section from 1989 until his appointment as Magistrate Judge. Magistrate Judge Facciola is an adjunct professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. He is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a member of the Board of Governors of the John Carroll Society.

PATRICK J. ATTRIDGE



Magistrate Judge Attridge was appointed Magistrate of the United States District Court in May 1983. Following graduation from St. John's University (B.A. 1951), he entered the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War. Upon his discharge from the Army, he resumed his studies and received an LL.B. from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1956. Prior to his appointment, Magistrate Judge Attridge was engaged in private practice in the District of Columbia and Maryland as a trial and appellate lawyer for over twenty-six years. Magistrate Judge Attridge served on the Security, Space and Facilities Committee of the U.S. Judicial Conference from 1990 until 1996. Magistrate Judge Attridge retired in June 1997 but was recalled to serve an additional one-year term.

Office of the Clerk of the District Court



Nancy Mayer-Whittington
Clerk of Court

The mission of the Clerk's Office is to provide courteous and efficient service to the court, the bar, and the public. The Clerk's Office has 70 employees and is divided into four divisions: operations, administrative services, systems, and the Office of the Clerk.

The Operations Division plays a major role in the operation of the court and consists of five judicial support units, the criminal unit, and the files/intake unit. The judicial support units are self-directed work teams comprised of courtroom deputies and docket clerks. Each unit provides complete support — courtroom coverage, case management, and docketing — to a small group of judicial officers associated with each unit. The criminal unit processes and docket all matters related to criminal cases. The files/intake unit oversees all aspects of records management and processes all civil matters submitted for filing.

Administrative Services has a broad range of responsibilities and plays a significant role in providing nonjudicial administrative support to the court. Eight distinct functions are included in the mission of Administrative Services: attorney admissions, finance, jury, property and procurement, budget, space and facilities, interpreting services, and liaison to the court reporters.

The Systems Office provides automation support to the court and the Clerk's Office. The Systems Office is responsible for maintaining the court's docketing and case management database system and supporting the court's local area network and all personal computers assigned to district court judges and their staff and the Clerk's Office staff.

The Office of the Clerk includes the Clerk of Court, her personal staff, the human resource manager and her assistant, the training coordinator and two management analysts. This office provides staff support to the judges' committees and many of the court-appointed advisory committees. The Office of the Clerk also designs and implements a wide variety of special projects at the request of the court.

United States Probation Office



Richard A. Houck
Chief U.S. Probation Officer

The Probation Office serves the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia by performing pre-sentencing investigations to aid district judges in the choice of appropriate sentences for criminal defendants, and by supervising the activities of persons condition-

ally released to the community. The Probation Office is currently staffed with 47 probation officers and 29 support personnel.

The office plays a critical role in the sentencing of criminal defendants by preparing Presentence Investigation Reports and providing Sentencing Guidelines calculations. Its probation officers gather and compile information related to the history and characteristics of defendants, including prior criminal records, financial status, circumstances affecting defendants' behavior helpful to sentencing or correctional treatment, and classification of offenses and defendants under the categories established by the U. S. Sen-

tencing Commission. Probation officers also collect victim impact statements.

In addition, U.S. probation officers serve as officers of the United States District Court and as agents of the United States Parole Commission to supervise the activities of persons sentenced to probation, supervised release, and parole. Specialists administer contracts for services (or deliver services) for drug, alcohol, and mental health treatment; HIV/AIDS counseling; a sanctions center; electronic monitoring of offenders; employment counseling, education and vocational assistance; and "special offenders." The mission of the office is to faithfully execute each offender's sentence, to control any risk posed by persons under its supervision, and to promote law-abiding behavior.

In 1997, the Probation Office increased its efforts to provide the highest quality, professional service to the court. Enhancements to the office automation and telecommunications systems, hiring of highly qualified staff, and increased training opportunities have helped lead the way towards this goal. The office utilizes progressive strategies such as flexible work schedules and telecommuting options to assist its staff in meeting office goals and responsibilities with increased efficiency and effectiveness.

Court Reporters



Beverly Byrne
Court Reporting Supervisor

The primary duties of the court reporters are to record court proceedings and to produce verbatim transcripts of the proceedings when required. By statute, rule, or order of the court, reporters must accurately report all court sessions and other proceedings

because all U.S. District Courts are courts of record. Proceedings recorded under this section include all proceedings in criminal, civil, and other cases held in open court. 28 U.S.C. § 753.

At the close of 1997, the District Court employed 14 full-time reporters, the full complement authorized for the D.C. Circuit. The staff reporters serve all active judges, senior judges, and magistrate judges of the District Court. By custom in this district, each reporter is assigned to one active judge or senior judge. When the assigned judge is not engaged in court proceedings, the reporter's services may be utilized by other judges.

While official court reporters are employees of the court, their position is unique. They receive an annual salary, but are the only court employees who must furnish their own supplies and equip-

ment. However, the reporters may charge and collect fees for certain work performed in the course of their official duties. While transcripts prepared for official court records are provided to the court free of charge, reporters may collect fees for preparing transcripts at the request of parties. The fees for this service are established by the U.S. Judicial Conference.

Before being hired, all court reporters must pass a vigorous three-part reporting test and a general knowledge written examination. They are also required to hold a Certificate of Proficiency by their reporting association. In addition, as a condition of membership, the two reporting associations, the National Court Reporters Association and the National Stenomask Verbatim Reporters Association require a prescribed level of continuing education to enhance a reporter's skills.

The court reporters play an important role, assisting the judges of the District Court in rendering their decisions and rulings by giving them verbatim transcripts on an expedited basis. They read back prior testimony and work closely with chambers' staff and judges' courtroom deputies to ensure that court proceedings are accurately recorded.

Beverly Byrne was officially appointed Court Reporting Supervisor by the Clerk of the Court on July 1, 1995 after having served on a supervisory committee since January 1, 1993.

U.S. District Court Advisory Committees

The United States District Court has established seven committees, composed of members of the bench and bar, to assist in its administrative efforts.

Civil Justice Reform Committee

The Civil Justice Reform Committee was established in 1994 as an outgrowth of the Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Group. The committee works with the court to review and assess the implementation of the expense and delay reduction plan for the court.

The members of the Civil Justice Reform Committee are:

Stephen A. Saltzburg, Chair

John D. Bates

Jane Lang

Judith A. Miller

Dwight D. Murray

Elizabeth Paret, *ex officio*

Judge Royce C. Lamberth, Liaison

Advisory Committee on Local Rules

Rule 83 of Title 28 of the United States Code permits each district to adopt local rules consistent with the Federal Rules. The court's Advisory Committee on Local Rules was formed in 1973 to provide expert advice to the court as local rules are promulgated and changed. The committee, which is composed of local practitioners, also acts as a vehicle for the receipt and submission to the court of comments on proposed rule changes.

The members of the Advisory Committee on Local Rules are:

John D. Aldock, Chair

Donald Bucklin

Robert J. Higgins

Wilma A. Lewis

Michael L. Martinez

Wendell W. Webster

Judge Thomas F. Hogan, Liaison

Advisory Committee on Non-Appropriated Funds

Local Rule 701, governing membership in the bar of the District Court, requires the payment of a small fee upon an attorney's initial admission and each subsequent triennial renewal. The fees are used, in part, to defray the cost of keeping the court's register of attorneys current. Any balance is held in trust by the Clerk of Court, and the funds accumulated are spent from time to time, with the approval of the court, primarily for the benefit of the bench and bar.

Members of the Advisory Committee on Non-Appropriated Funds are:

Thomas Abbenante
William F. Causey
Robert J. Higgins
Darryl W. Jackson
Lynn C. Leibovitz
Cynthia W. Lobo
Nancy Mayer-Whittington, *ex officio*

Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, Liaison

CJA Panel Selection Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act of 1964, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A (as amended), the judges of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia have adopted a plan to provide lawyers to defendants who are financially unable to obtain adequate representation. The CJA Panel Selection Committee reviews the qualifications of private attorneys who are eligible and willing to provide representation under the Criminal Justice Act and recommends the best qualified to the court.

The members of the CJA Panel Selection Committee are:

Judge Ricardo M. Urbina, Chair

Magistrate Judge Deborah A. Robinson
Francis D. Carter
A.J. Kramer
R. Stan Mortenson

Advisory Committee on Pro Se Litigation

Pursuant to the provisions of Local Rule 702.1, the Advisory Committee on Pro Se Litigation was appointed to oversee the Civil Pro Bono Panel. The 125 volunteer members of the panel represent *pro se* parties who are proceeding *in forma pauperis* in civil actions and cannot obtain counsel by any other means. In 1996, the court made 40 assignments to members of the panel; in 1997, it made 67 assignments.

Members of the Advisory Committee on Pro Se Litigation are:

Elizabeth Sarah Gere, Chair

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| L. Graeme Bell III | Antonia B. Ianniello | Jonathan M. Smith |
| Joel P. Bennett | Karla Letsche | Allen R. Snyder |
| Lovida H. Coleman, Jr. | Juan E. Milanes | Joan H. Strand |
| Eugene R. Fidell | Dwight D. Murray | Maureen T. Thornton Syracuse |
| Robert B. Fitzpatrick | Alan A. Pemberton | Wendy Bhambri, <i>ex officio</i> |
| Karen T. Grisez | Douglas G. Robinson | Addie Hailstorks, <i>ex officio</i> |
| Robert Hauhart | Jeffrey D. Robinson | Richard Love, <i>ex officio</i> |
| Michael M. Hicks | | Michael Zoeller, <i>ex officio</i> |

Judge James Robertson, Liaison

Committee on Grievances

Pursuant to Local Rule 705, the court's Committee on Grievances is charged with receiving, investigating, considering, and acting upon complaints against members of the bar of the District Court that may involve disbarment, suspension, censure, reinstatement, or other disciplinary actions.

The committee is appointed by the court, and membership is rotated after a period of service. The committee receives complaints from judges, members of the bar, and litigants.

The members of the Committee on Grievances are:

Joseph E. diGenova, Chair
Pamela B. Stuart, Vice Chair

Avis Buchanan
Richard L. Cys
Stuart H. Newberger
Rebecca L. Ross
Joseph N. Alexander, Clerk
to the Committee

Judge Harold H. Greene, Liaison

Rule 711 Counseling Panel

The Rule 711 Counseling Panel was established in 1990 to receive referrals from district court judges of attorneys who exhibit a deficiency in performance. Upon referral, an attorney may receive counseling from a panel member on matters relating to litigation practice, ethics, or possible substance abuse problems.

The Rule 711 Counseling Panel members are:

Wendell W. Webster, Chair

Francis D. Carter

Maureen Duignan

Robert E. Jordan III

Kim M. Keenan

M. Elizabeth Medaglia

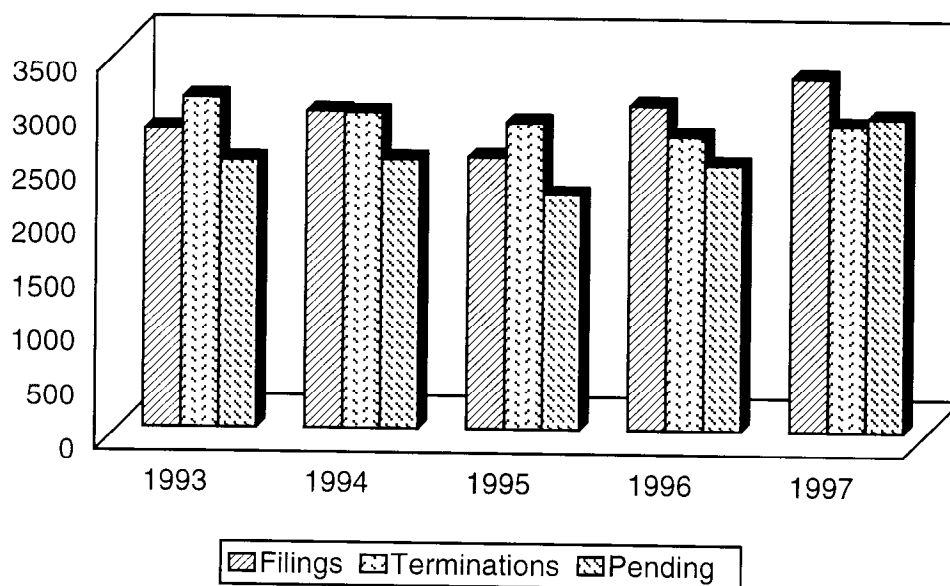
U.S. District Court Workload Information

Following a 17 percent decrease in District Court filings in 1995, filings increased by 22 percent in 1996 and by eight percent in 1997. In both 1996 and 1997, civil case filings comprised 86 percent of the overall caseload.

| | 1995 | 1996 | Change | 1997 | Change |
|---------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| Filings | 2,871 | 3,516 | 22% | 3,790 | 8% |
| Terminations | 3,229 | 3,152 | -2% | 3,368 | 7% |
| Pending | 2,374 | 2,738 | 15% | 3,159 | 15% |

The number of civil case filings increased by 20 percent in 1996 and by nine percent in 1997. A large part of the 1996 increase can be attributed to an increase in petitions filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, following the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Bailey v. United States*.

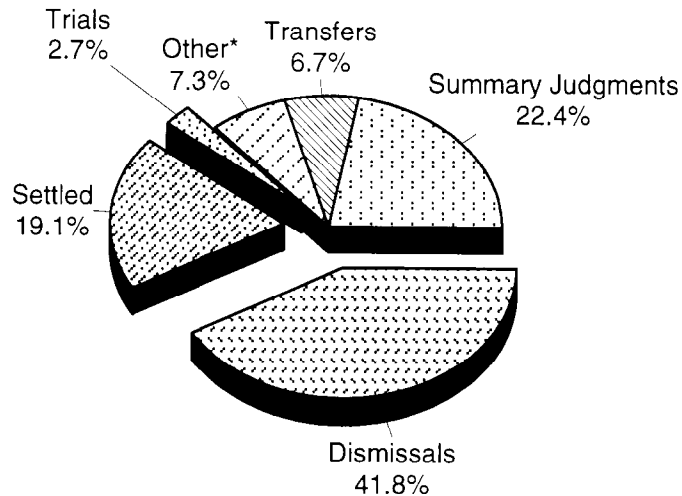
**Civil Caseload Summary
1993-1997**



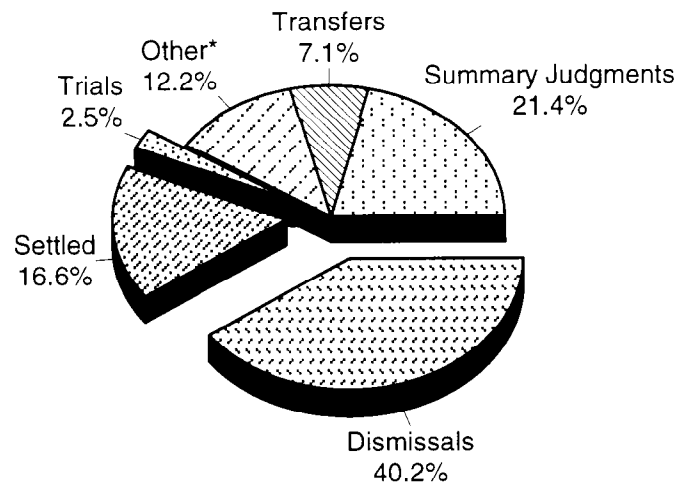
The total number of civil cases terminated remained relatively steady over the past two years, decreasing by four percent in 1996, but then increasing by four percent in 1997. As in previous years, over 40 percent of all civil cases terminated in 1996 and 1997 were terminated by dismissal. The percentage terminated by settlement and by trial also remained relatively steady.

Civil Case Terminations

1996:



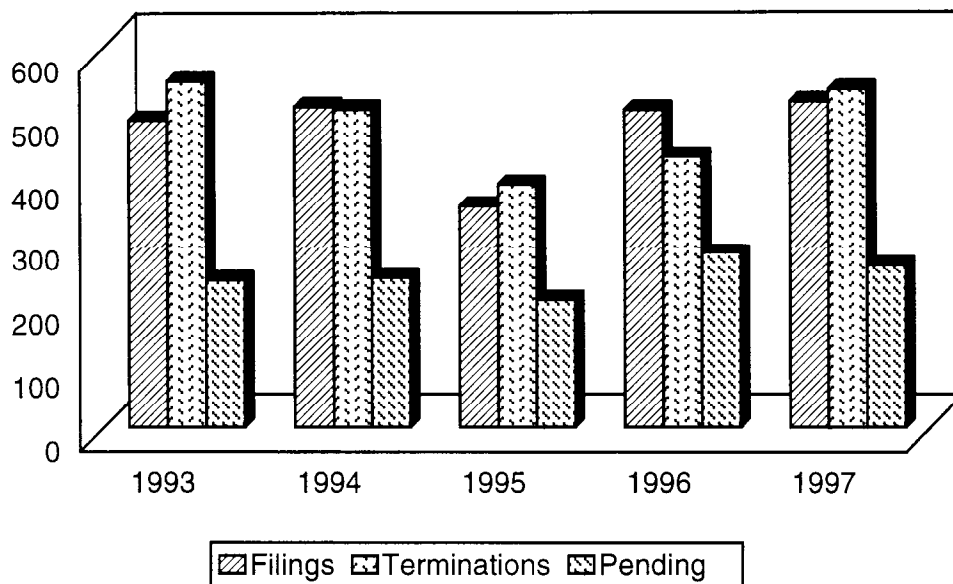
1997:



* "Other" terminations include judgment on default, consent judgment, and other judgments.

After falling dramatically in 1995, criminal case filings increased by 43 percent in 1996 and by three percent in 1997. A total of 502 cases were filed in 1996 and 515 in 1997. The 1996 increase was due in part to an increase in prosecutions for illegal possession of handguns. Concurrently, the number of criminal defendants increased by 33 percent in 1996 and by nine percent in 1997. The court also saw a 17 percent increase in multiple defendant cases in 1996 and a 13 percent increase in 1997.

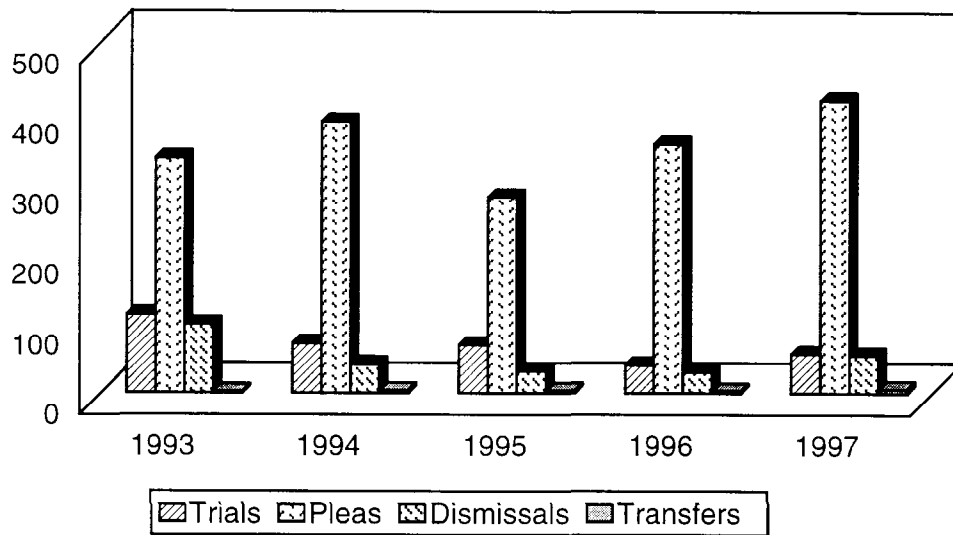
Criminal Caseload Summary 1993-1997



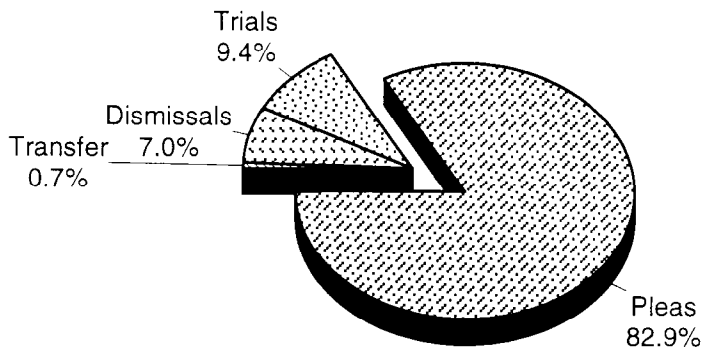
The total number of criminal case terminations increased by 11 percent in 1996 and by 25 percent in 1997. A total of 428 cases were terminated in 1996 and 534 in 1997. Pleas constituted 83 percent of the criminal case terminations in 1996 and 78 percent in 1997. The number of cases terminating as a result of trials decreased by 42 percent in 1996 and increased by 40 percent in 1997.

The median time from filing to disposition in criminal felony cases in 1996 was 6.1 months, which was slightly lower than the median time of 6.8 months for district courts nationwide. In 1997, the median time was 6.4 months, also slightly lower than the nationwide median time of 6.6 months.

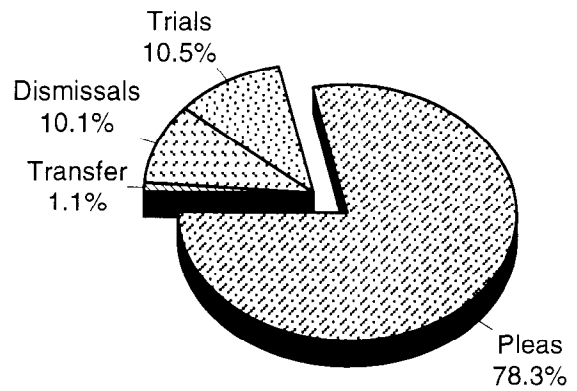
Criminal Case Terminations 1993-1997



Criminal Case Terminations 1996



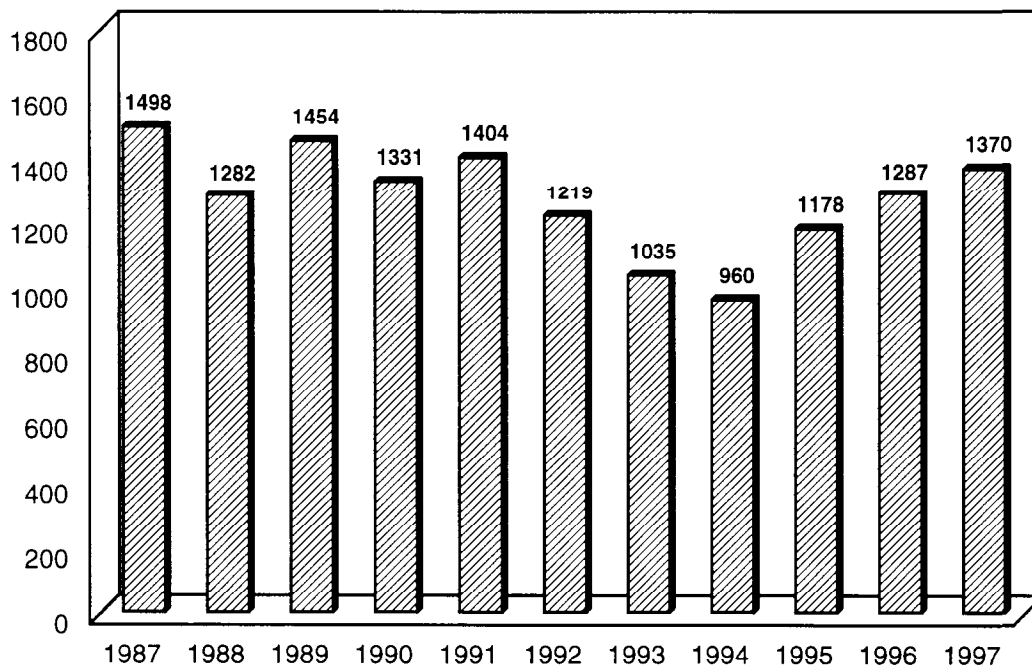
Criminal Case Terminations 1997



U.S. Probation Office Workload Information

The Probation Office has experienced a steady increase in supervision cases since 1994. The caseload increased, in part, because the office now supervises offenders sentenced by the District Court who reside in the local suburbs, as well as those living in the District of Columbia. A second factor contributing to the increase was a shift in the types of criminal cases prosecuted in federal court. In addition, in 1996, the Probation Office began to supervise a large number of offenders who were released after serving five-year mandatory minimum sentences imposed during a period when all cases involving five or more grams of cocaine were prosecuted in federal court. Furthermore, in 1997, the Probation Office began to supervise a small number of pretrial defendants released by the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern District of Virginia (Alexandria) and the District of Maryland but residing in the District of Columbia.

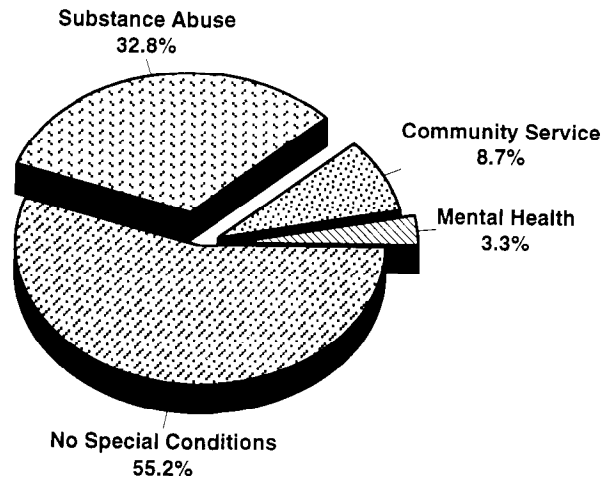
**Supervision Cases
1987-1997**



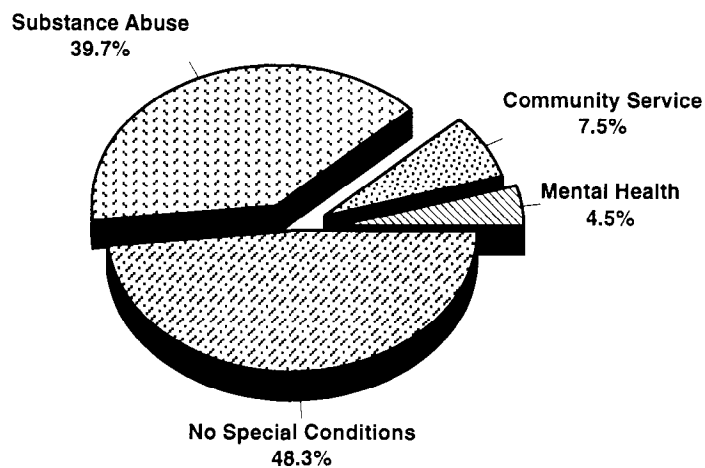
Between 1994 and 1996, there was a steady decline in the proportion of supervision cases involving substance abuse conditions: from 44 percent in 1994, to 42 percent in 1995 and 33 percent in 1996. During 1997, however, there was an increase in cases with substance abuse conditions, which may in part be related to the growing number of offenders released on supervision after serving five-year mandatory prison terms for drug offenses.

Supervision Cases With Special Conditions

1996:



1997:



The production of presentence reports represents a significant portion of the Probation Office's work. The reports are used by judges in structuring sentences and by the Bureau of Prisons in determining the appropriate classification and correctional facility for offenders. Since 1995, the number of presentence reports has increased significantly. There was a seven percent increase in 1996 and an increase of 18 percent in 1997.

**Presentence Reports
1987-1997**

